

Boston Public Library

Asian/Pacific American

Heritage Month

Booklist | 2021

C Pam Zhang



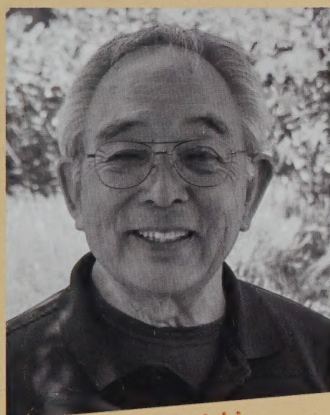
Pramila Jayapal



Trung Le Nguyen



Meredith Talusan



John Tateishi



Cathy Park Hong



PICTURE BOOKS

Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon

Kat Zhang

In this vibrant follow-up to *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao*, Amy returns with the goal of drawing the perfect dragon for her class. After her class focuses only on Western-style dragons, Amy introduces them to Asian dragons and dragon costumes used during Chinese New Year.

J PICTURE ZHANG K

Danbi Leads the School Parade

Anna Kim

Nervous readers will be reassured by this story of a young girl overcoming the anxiety of her first day in a new school. The whimsical illustrations capture the story's energy as Danbi and her classmates are swept up in a musical parade.

J PICTURE KIM A



Finding Om

Rashmi S. Bismark
(illustrated by Morgan Huff)

Children can learn about meditation and mindfulness along with curious Anu as her beloved and patient grandfather Appuppa teaches her about the mantra "Om."

J PICTURE BISMARK R

Ginger and Chrysanthemum

Kristen Mai Giang
(illustrated by Shirley Chan)

Ginger is warm and impulsive, while Chrysanthemum is cool and collected. Hijinks ensue when the two must pair up to create a cake for Grandma's birthday!

J PICTURE GIANG K



How to Solve a Problem: The Rise (and Falls) of a Rock-Climbing Champion

Ashima Shiraishi
(illustrated by Yao Xiao)

A world-class climber offers an interesting perspective on problem-solving by way of describing her approach to rock climbing.

J PICTURE SHIRAISH A

Luna's Yum Yum Dim Sum

Natasha Yim (illustrated by Violet Kim)

In this playful picture book, dinner at a dim sum restaurant becomes an opportunity to introduce math concepts like division and fractions.

J PICTURE YIM N



The Most Beautiful Thing

Kao Kalia Yang
(illustrated by Khoa Le)

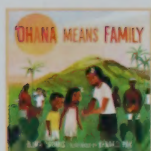
This moving illustrated memoir centers on the values that the author has learned from her grandmother's experiences and stories.

J BIOG JV6475 .Y36 2020

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



Ohana Means Family
Ilima Loomis
(illustrated by Kenard Pak)

Through vivid illustrations and cumulative verse perfect for a read-aloud, young readers can follow along with the process of making poi for a lú'au.
 J PICTURE LOOMIS I

CHAPTER BOOKS



Any Day with You
Mae Respicio

When Kaia learns that her Tatang (great-grandfather) will be accompanying her older sister back to the Philippines in the fall, she wants to make sure they get a grand send-off. Kaia becomes determined to win a short film contest and applies for Tatang to receive the congressional Medal of Honor.
 J FICTION RESPICIO M

Awesome Asian Americans: 20 Stars Who Made America Amazing

Phil Amara & Oliver Chin
(illustrated by Juan Calle)

This collective biography of Asian American trailblazers pairs dynamic illustrations with the stories of men and women from all walks of life who have made groundbreaking discoveries and top accomplishments in their fields.
 J BIOG E184.A75 A47 2020

The Dragon Egg Princess

Ellen Oh

Jiho has no interest in carrying on his family's duty of protecting an enchanted forest called Kidahara, the same forest his father disappeared into five years ago. When an evil lurking deeper within the Kidahara starts to awaken, will Jiho join forces with other unlikely heroes to save the forest and the world?

J SCIFI FANTASY OH E



Girl Giant and the Monkey King

Van Hoang

Super strength is Thom Ngho's super secret until she moves from California to Georgia and the legendary Monkey King pays her a visit. As Thom's adventures blur between the real world and Vietnamese folklore, she realizes that the strength she tries to hide at school is the same superpower that has made her a hero.

J SCIFI FANTASY HOANG V

Measuring Up

Lily LaMotte (illustrated by Ann Xu)

When 12-year-old Cici's family immigrates to Seattle, she fights to maintain her connection to her culture, her friends, and her grandmother back in Taiwan. Winning a cooking competition could become an opportunity to bring her A-má over for her 70th birthday—but can Cici learn to cook outside her comfort zone? With mouth-watering illustrations, this graphic novel is hard to put down.

J GRAPHIC MEASURIN UP

Prairie Lotus

Linda Sue Park

It's 1880, and Hanna is looking for a new start in the Dakota territories with her father after her mother's death. The discrimination that the half-white, half-Chinese Hanna faces is tempered by her encounters with women from the local Ihanktonwan community. For readers looking for a fresh perspective on the pioneers' journey.

J FICTION PARK L



Stand Up, Yumi Chung!

Jessica Kim

A self-described #shygirl who struggles to fit in at school and at home,

Yumi finds herself in the spotlight when she mistakenly ends up at her favorite YouTuber's comedy camp.

J FICTION KIM J

A Thousand Questions

Saadia Faruqi

When Mimi and her mother leave Texas in order to stay with Mimi's wealthy grandparents in Pakistan, her initial encounters with the daughter of the family's cook are rocky. But Sakina needs English conversation practice and Mimi needs a guide to Karachi. Can these two unlikely friends team up to help each other achieve their goals?

J FICTION FARUQI S



Three Keys

Kelly Yang

In the sequel to the award-winning *Front Desk*, Mia's family is on a constant grind to make ends meet in their motel in

California. With an election and a racist bill looming overhead, aspiring writer Mia and her friends set out to interrogate discrimination—and grapple with living in a country stacked against them.

J FICTION YANG K

When You Trap a Tiger

Tae Keller

After Lily's family moves in with her grandmother, she is shocked when a magical tiger appears and offers her an ultimatum. Could the folktales she listened to as a child be real? This Newbery Medal winner expertly weaves Korean folklore into a thoughtful coming-of-age story.

J FICTION KELLER T

A Wish in the Dark

Christina Soontornvat

This Thai-inspired fantasy novel centers on Pong, a Namwon Prison refugee who has escaped into a city of magical lights. When Nok, the prison warden's daughter, tries to hunt him down, she learns dark truths about the city and the injustices its people face.

J SCIFI FANTASY SOONTORN C

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel

TEEN

Almost American Girl

Robin Ha

Growing up as the only child of a single mother in Seoul wasn't always easy, but Robin and her mom have always stuck together. When a vacation to visit Alabama unexpectedly becomes a permanent relocation, however, Robin's life changes overnight.

TEEN GRAPHIC ALMOST
AMERICAN GIRL

Displacement

Kiku Hughes

Modern-day teen Kiku comes to a better understanding of history and her family heritage when she finds herself repeatedly thrown back in time to join her grandmother Ernestina in the Japanese internment camps of the 1940s.

TEEN GRAPHIC DISPLACE



I'll Be the One

Lyla Lee

When plus-size Skye Shin auditions for a televised K-Pop competition in LA, she's determined to make it all the way and prove that fat girls really can dance, no matter what her mother says.

TEEN FICTION LEE L

The Iron Will of Genie Lo

F.C. Yee

In the follow-up to *The Epic Crush of Genie Lo*, Genie must balance her mundane life as an aspiring college student with her duties as the Heaven-appointed Guardian of California.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY YEE F

Loveboat, Taipei

Abigail Hing Wen

When her parents send her to Taipei for an immersion program, Ever Wong is shocked to discover that instead of the strict education program she expected, "Loveboat" is an opportunity to hook up and party while the adults turn a blind eye.

TEEN FICTION WEN A

The Magic Fish

Trung Le Nguyen

In this beautifully illustrated, semi-autobiographical graphic novel, a young boy struggles with coming out to his parents. Can the fairy tales he checks out from the library and reads with his mother help bridge the gap between them?

TEEN GRAPHIC MAGIC FISH



More Than Just a Pretty Face

Syed M. Masood

Academics aren't aspiring chef Danyal's strong suit, but to impress his crush (and her disapproving family), he'll do whatever it takes—even recruit the help of the girl his parents tried to arrange his marriage with.

TEEN FICTION MASOOD S

My Heart Underwater 📖 🎧

Laurel Flores Fantauzzo

When she's caught kissing her English teacher, 17-year-old Corazon is swiftly dispatched to stay with her half-brother in the Philippines, where she discovers truths about herself, her family, and their country that she's never known.

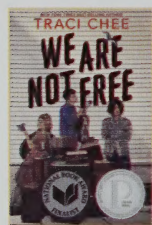
TEEN FICTION FANTAUZZ L

This Is My Brain in Love 📖 🎧

I.W. Gregorio

Jocelyn Wu is determined to save her family's restaurant with the help of her sweet, anxious classmate and coworker Will Domenici. But soon the stress of their mission, and their new relationship, begins to take a toll on her mental health.

TEEN FICTION GREGORIO I



We Are Not Free 📖 🎧

Traci Chee

Inspired by her own family's experiences, Chee presents the varying, sometimes harrowing, circumstances of 14

Nisei teenagers from San Francisco's Japantown in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor bombing, in styles ranging from letters to diaries to poetry to art.

TEEN FICTION CHEE T

MEMOIR



The Baddest Bitch in the Room 📖

Sophia Chang

Chang recounts her success as a woman of color in the male-dominated music industry and explores her experiences in marriage, motherhood, and martial arts.

BIOG ML429.C448 A3 2020x

Everything Is Beautiful, and I'm Not Afraid 📖 🎧

Yao Xiao

In this collection of autobiographical comic vignettes starring a fictional protagonist, Baopu, Xiao muses on the challenges and triumphs of life as a queer Chinese immigrant in America.

GRAPHIC EVERYTHI IS BEAUTIFUL



Fairest 📖 🎧

Meredith Talusan

Talusan explores the challenges of negotiating her multiple identities as a trans Filipina woman with albinism

in this coming-of-age memoir.

BIOG HQ77.8.T36 A3 2020

🎧 available as an audiobook

📖 available as an eBook

🎨 graphic novel

Family in Six Tones: A Refugee Mother, an American Daughter 》》

Lan Cao (with Harlan Margaret Van Cao)

Novelist and law professor Cao teams up with her daughter in a dual-perspective memoir that depicts both the lingering trauma of Cao's flight from Vietnam as a 13-year-old, and the enduring strength of her relationship with her own teenage daughter.

BIOG PS3553.A5823 Z46 2020



The Groom Will Keep His Name: And Other Vows I've Made About Race, Resistance, and Romance 》》

Matt Ortile

In his debut collection of essays about sex, identity, and more, Ortile (the founding editor of BuzzFeed Philippines) reflects on the stories he told himself on his way to achieving self-love and fulfillment.

BIOG HQ75.8.O73 A3 2020



The Magical Language of Others 》》

E.J. Koh

Inspired by the discovery of letters her mother wrote her after relocating to Seoul and leaving a teenaged Koh and her brother behind in California, the author reflects on the experiences of her mother, grandmothers, and her own journey.

BIOG PS3611.O3659 Z46 2020

Missed Translations: Meeting the Immigrant Parents Who Raised Me 》》

Sopan Deb

Reporter and comedian Deb brings both humor and a journalistic approach to his memoir of reconnecting as an adult with his estranged parents, discovering in the process aspects of their lives he had never known.

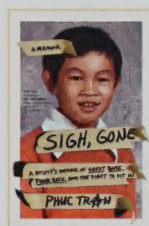
BIOG PN4874.D393 A3 2020x

See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love 》》

Valarie Kaur

Kaur, a Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer, draws on her own experiences and beliefs to develop a practice of loving others.

BF575.L8 K37 2020



Sigh, Gone: A Misfit's Memoir of Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In 》》

Phuc Tran

Tran and his family leave the fall of Saigon behind to relocate to the suburban Pennsylvania of 1975. Faced with both the challenges of immigration and adolescence, he navigates his new reality with the help of punk rock music and classic literature.

BIOG F159.C2 T73 2020

Use the Power You Have: A Brown Woman's Guide to Politics and Political Change

Pramila Jayapal

The first Indian American woman in the U.S. House of Representatives, Jayapal describes her path to Congress and her history of turning activism into public policy.

E901.1.J29 A3 2020

EXPRESSIONS



Chinatown Pretty: Fashion and Wisdom from Chinatown's Most Stylish Seniors

Andria Lo & Valerie Luu

Spotlighting pòh pòhs and gùng gungs in Chinatowns from Vancouver to New York, *Chinatown Pretty* captures the fabulous street style and inspirational life wisdom of senior citizens across the continent.

TR681.A75 L6 2020

A Feast of Serendib

Mary Anne Mohanraj

Mohanraj offers readers a glimpse into Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic culture and culinary history along with an invitation to sit at her table and share milk, rice and pol sambol, paruppu and crab curry, and of course, lots of chai.

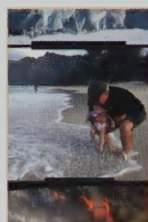
TX724.5.S72 M65 2020

The Galleons

Rick Barot

These lyric poems, engaged in the work of recovery, examine the immigrant journey of Barot's Filipino American family and their place in a larger history of America and the world, making visible what is often kept hidden.

PS3602.A835 A6 2020



Habitat Threshold

Craig Santos Perez

This unique collection of ecopoetry explores Perez's heritage as a native Pacific Islander.

The poems examine the ecological plight of his homeland and offer hope for a sustainable future steered by love and care.

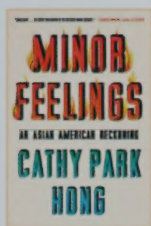
PS3619.A598 H33 2020

Letters to a Young Brown Girl

Barbara Jane Reyes

As a Filipino American immigrant of color, Reyes is constantly visible and constantly seen. In this poetry collection, she writes with language both beautiful and raw to find strength, beauty, and even grace amidst her rage as she demands to be heard.

PS3618.E938 L48 2020



**Minor Feelings:
An Asian American
Reckoning**

Cathy Park Hong

Poet and essayist Hong seamlessly blends

memoir, cultural criticism, and history to unearth important truths about racial consciousness in America. This collection is funny, raw, and provocative—and it will change the way you think about our world.

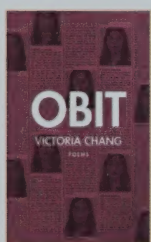
BLOG E184.A75 H64 2020x

**The Nom Wah Cookbook:
Recipes and Stories from 100
Years at New York City's Iconic
Dim Sum Restaurant**

Wilson Tang & Joshua David Stein

The owner of NYC's iconic Nom Wah Tea Parlor gifts readers with 75 accessible dim sum recipes ranging from bao to vegetables, noodles to desserts, along with the stories behind them.

TX724.5.C5 T365 2020



Obit
Victoria Chang

As she grapples with the devastating loss of her mother and subsequent grief, Chang writes poetic obituaries for the many

casualties of death, and in doing so reimagines what it means to live.

PS3603.H3575 O25 2020



**Some Are
Always Hungry**
Jihyun Yun

In a book that is part recipe, part dinner table poem, and part family

history, Yun memorializes her family's wartime survival and immigration journey through the lens of food.

PS3625.U526 S66 2020



**Whiter: Asian American
Women on Skin Color
and Colorism**

Nikki Khanna (editor)

Addressing light-skin privilege, aspirational

whiteness, anti-blackness, and other topics, 30 Asian American women recount their experiences with skin color bias and their efforts to challenge beauty standards.

E184.A75 K495 2020

**Xi'an Famous Foods: The Cuisine
of Western China, from New
York's Favorite Noodle Shop**

Jason Wang (with Jessica K. Chou)

Wang offers a perfect blend of recipes for the famous dishes that fans adore and an exploration of the delicious cuisine and culture of Xi'an.

TX724.5.C5 W3255 2020x



available as an audiobook



available as an eBook



graphic novel

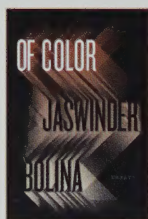
NONFICTION

Forever Struggle: Activism, Identity, and Survival in Boston's Chinatown, 1880-2018

Michael Liu

A lifelong activist and scholar of Boston's Chinatown traces its emergence during a time of immigration and xenophobia to its more recent battles against land-grabs by commercial developers, outside institutions, and public authorities.

F73.9.C5 L58 2020



Of Color: Essays

Jaswinder Bolina

An award-winning poet's first essay collection presents a unique portrayal of the present-day

United States, exploring immigration, assimilation, class, microaggressions, and being branded as "other" by the nation and language to which he belongs.

PS3602.O6538

One Mighty and Irresistible Tide: The Epic Struggle Over American Immigration, 1924-1965

Jia Lynn Yang

A broad narrative history with relevance for today's debates, this account of the 20th-century struggle to reform immigration laws is framed by the story of the author's own family's immigration to the United States.

JV6455 .Y34 2020

Our Voices, Our Histories: Asian American and Pacific Islander Women

Shirley Hune &

Gail M. Nomura (editors)

This Own Voices collection features 35 authors' explorations of the historical and current experiences and perspectives of Asian American and Pacific Islander women in the United States and around the world.

E184.A75 H895 2019

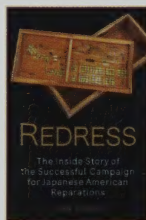
Prisoner of Wars: A Hmong Fighter Pilot's Story of Escaping Death and Confronting Life

Chia Youyee Vang

(with Pao Yang)

This oral history, recounted by Yang to Dr. Vang, traces the author's experiences of imprisonment, trauma, and freedom following his service as a CIA-trained Hmong airman during the Secret War in Laos.

BIOG UG626.2.Y365 V36 2021



Redress: The Inside Story of the Successful Campaign for Japanese American Reparations

John Tateishi

A former leader of the Japanese American Citizens League's Redress Committee recounts the struggle to obtain an official apology and compensation for the incarceration of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

D769.8.A6 T383 2020



Seeing Like a Child: Inheriting the Korean War

Clara Han

Anthropologist Han combines autobiography and ethnography as

she investigates the infiltration of the violence of the Korean War into domestic life and her own childhood.

DS918 .H36 2021

Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration

Shirley Ann Higuchi

Combining family and communal history, the author explores the experiences and aftermath of her mother's incarceration during World War II.

D769.8.A6 H54 2020

The United States of India: Anticolonial Literature and Transnational Refraction

Manan Desai

This cultural and political history recounts the contributions of Indian and American writers in the United States to the vision of an anticolonial future for India in the years surrounding World War I.

E184.E2 D38 2020

FICTION

Beauty

Christina Chiu

Amy Wong, a promising fashion designer sidelined by marriage and motherhood, fights to find the beauty in her life in the face of prejudice, professional rivals, and her own self-destructive attraction to toxic men.

FICTION CHIU C



Bestiary

K-Ming Chang

Mythology and intergenerational trauma intertwine as a Taiwanese American

girl—raised on tales of the Hu Gu Po, a tiger spirit who eats children's toes—falls in love, translates the letters from her grandmother that have begun appearing in holes in her front yard, and mysteriously grows a tiger's tail.

FICTION CHANG K

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel

The Book of Kane and Margaret

Kiik Araki-Kawaguchi

Araki-Kawaguchi blends his grandparents' histories with magical elements to create captivating vignettes of individuals in the Japanese relocation camps of the 1940s, all named Kane Araki and Margaret Morri.

FICTION ARAKIKAW K



The Color of Air

Gail Tsukiyama

Set against the backdrop of Hawai'i's sugar plantations, this evocative historical novel shifts between past and

present (the day of the Mona Loa eruption in 1935) as it relates the story of one Japanese-American family.

FICTION TSUKIYAM G

Homeland Elegies

Ayad Akhtar

Akhtar's heavily autobiographical narrative is an epic story of longing and dispossession, centered on the fictionalized Akhtar, his family, and their post-9/11 experiences as Pakistani immigrants in the country they call home: the United States.

FICTION AKHTAR A



How Much of These Hills Is Gold

C Pam Zhang

In a depiction of the American West post-Gold Rush that challenges the pre-established

assumptions of the Western genre, two preteen siblings embark on an epic quest to give their father a proper burial.

FICTION ZHANG C

Inheritors

Asako Serizawa

Serizawa's debut collection of short stories follows a single Japanese family over 150 years, from colonial Asia to the United States, inviting the reader to meditate on the relationship between history, memory, and storytelling.

FICTION SERIZAWA A



Interior Chinatown

Charles Yu

Willis Wu dreams of making it big as Kung Fu Guy—the best role for a Chinese actor, or

so he thinks. After stumbling into the spotlight, Willis is introduced to a larger world and discovers the secret history of Chinatown and his family's legacy.

FICTION YU C

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 graphic novel

The Last Story of Mina Lee ☐))

Nancy Jooyoun Kim

Twenty-six-year-old Margot Lee pays an unexpected visit to her childhood apartment and finds her mother dead. As Margot digs deeper into Mina's past as a Korean War orphan and undocumented immigrant, she realizes how little she knew about her mother's life.

FICTION KIM N



Loathe at First Sight ☐))

Suzanne Park

Between a racist and sexist workplace, an impossible project, and getting saddled with the boss's nephew for an intern, Melody Joo's

dream job as a video game producer is turning into a nightmare. Intern Nolan is unexpectedly supportive and annoyingly handsome, but as they work together, Melody will have to decide whether to prioritize her career or her heart.

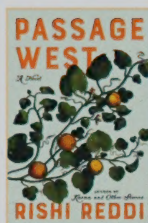
FICTION PARK S

Mimi Lee Gets a Clue / Mimi Lee Reads Between the Lines ☐))

Jennifer J. Chow

In the opening two books of the cozy Sassy Cat Mysteries, Los Angeles pet groomer Mimi Lee starts an unexpected side gig in sleuthing. Together with her dreamy lawyer neighbor and her talking cat, Marshmallow, Mimi's on the case!

MYSTERY CHOW J



Passage West ☐

Rishi Reddi

In an account of a little-known piece of American history, Reddi portrays the complex relationship between two

Punjabi sharecroppers in California's Imperial Valley in the early 1900s, one of whom longs to return to his family in India while the other is determined, in the face of all obstacles and anti-immigrant bigotry, to remain.

FICTION REDDI R

The Prince of Mournful Thoughts and Other Stories ☐

Caroline Kim

In short stories, Kim explores life throughout the Korean diaspora. Protagonists include a boy growing up during the Korean War, a teenage girl in 1980s America, and a father who struggles to stay connected to his daughter, all of whom must find a way to overcome their obstacles without losing their identities.

FICTION KIM C

Purple Lotus

Veena Rao

Three years into her arranged marriage, Tara moves from India to Atlanta with her husband. As they begin to settle into their new home, Sanjay becomes violent. Without support from her family, Tara must decide if she should speak up for herself, or stay silent.

FICTION RAO V



The Son of Good Fortune

Lysley Tenorio

Nineteen-year-old Excel ("like the spreadsheet") must navigate his

tumultuous relationship with his action-star-turned-con-artist mother and their family's precarious status as undocumented immigrants in this coming-of-age debut novel.

FICTION TENORIO L

The Trouble with Hating You

Sajni Patel

Liya Thakkar, happily single, leaves her parents' home when they try to set her up. But when her would-be fiancé becomes a coworker and slowly comes to know her, Liya begins to wonder if he could be the one man who accepts her, painful past and all.

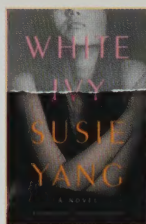
FICTION PATEL S

Well-Behaved Indian Women

Saumya Dave

Three generations of mothers and daughters (in Manhattan, New Jersey, and India) must navigate the gap between expectations and dreams as Mimi, Nandini, and Simran try to define who they are inside and outside of their Indian community.

FICTION DAVE S



White Ivy

Susie Yang

Raised by her grandmother, a skilled con-woman and petty thief, Ivy Lin is perfectly equipped to manipulate a chance

encounter with her wealthy and well-connected childhood crush into upward social mobility. But when her ugly past threatens her golden future, what will she sacrifice to keep it?

FICTION YANG S

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Heritage Month

Booklist | 2021

The Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month booklist is a list of recent books concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month each year.



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Kim Janey, Mayor

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